

Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 022701-951

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
 Edith CANIVENC et al. ) Group Art Unit: (Unassigned) *A/AS 13/29/2*  
 Application No.: Unassigned ) Examiner: (Unassigned)  
 (Corresponds to PCT/FR00/00687) )  
 International Filing Date: March 20, 2000 )  
 For: USE OF COPOLYMERS DERIVED )  
 FROM POLYAMIDES AS GELLING )  
 AGENTS FOR COMPOUNDS WITH )  
 LOW POLARITY )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**BOX PCT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claims 1-23 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A gelling agent comprising a relatively nonpolar compound or a nonionic surfactant, comprising at least one block copolymer comprising the following units:

*A1*

-X-(R <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>m</sub> -(OA) <sub>n</sub> -X-	(I), and
-[NH-R <sup>2</sup> -NHCO-R <sup>2</sup> '-CO] <sub>r</sub> -	(IIa), and/or
-[NH-R <sup>3</sup> -CO] <sub>s</sub> -	(IIb), and
-OC-R <sup>4</sup> -CO-	(III)

in which units: